The I/O Connector

The newsletter of the San Diego Atari Computer Enthusiasts

December '87 (SDACE * P.O. BOX 203076 * SAN DIEGO * CA * 92120)

Elections in December!

Be sure to be at the December meeting to vote for your 1988 club officers' slate. Support SDACE!

December Meetings on Thursday the 3rd!

Mark your calendar and don't forget: the joint 8-bit/ST meeting will be on the first Thursday of December, at 6:30, at the North Park Rec Center, Adult Center, 2719 Howard Street

Renewal time is near!

SDACE desperetly needs you to renew your membership. Your support is needed now more than ever. Dues will be going up to $20 per year soon, so sign up in December to get the $15 rate! Check your expiration date on the newsletter label!

Merry Christmas!

Don's skip this because it's the

Editor's Final Column

Here it is: my very last newsletter! It's been a long and fulfilling year for me as the editor of the *Connector*, but the time has come for me to move on, mainly for reasons of time. Attending SDSU, working nights, and trying to squeeze in time for sleep has begun to take its toll, and I have to let someone else carry the torch. My replacement, Tom Bryant (his number is listed on opposite page) will be a capable and dedicated editor, and just to make sure he is, I'll be hanging around for a while. I'm not quitting SDACE, of course; on the contrary, I'll try to keep my foot in the door at the meetings and such.

Speaking of Tom, he has a 1040 and a Magic Sac, and will be going to the meetings and logging onto the club BBSs soon, with his new modem. I always encouraged feedback and criticism of my job as newsletter, and even though few ever took the time to say yea or nay how they felt about the newsletter, I hope some will with Tom. I encourage all of you to get a feel for him, to talk to him, and help him in any way possible. His first newsletter will be January.

It's election time! Be sure and be at the December meeting (a joint meeting on the 1st Thursday of the month at the North Park facility). I'll leave it to Dave to talk about the elections, but believe me, this will be a good meeting, and all should go. We will definetly have door prizes, including software, so be there or be square. As I said, I'll be running for club Secretary, and hope to be around at least another year.

This being my lame duck newsletter and all, I can take the liberty to say some things I might otherwise want to skip. If I rub some of you the wrong way, forgive me.

1) The 8-bit SIG is a dud. There's no contest; it's totally lame. The past year has seen it decline sharply, with less and less members attending the meetings. I don't want to condemn the Atari 8-bits completely, but it seems clear to me that if they're going to survive in our club in any way, the 8-bit owners are going to have to get a life and go to the meetings. Support SDACE, or we can't support you. If the trend holds true, the 8-bit will never hope to flourish again, and it will eventually die.

2) Apathy reigns in SDACE. Another truth. No one cares abouthing. No one offers any feedback of any kind, for anything. If you're not one of the few who complain about whatever they feel like complaining about at the meetings (and so few attend meetings, if seems, although I might be wrong about this since I, myself, can seldom attend) then we hear nothing from you for the whole year. No interest is taken, no way. And contributions to the newsletter, haha! What a joke. Reading through the newsletters of other clubs around the country, I am often depressed about how few care enough to do anything at all. Yes, I'm talking to you! You, reading this newsletter. Everyone in the club is guilty.

3) SDACE isn't rich. I can't quote numbers in print, but SDACE's financial standing is very poor. There are several reasons why: the purchase of the 520ST for the ST BBS, the extra fees we were forced to pay for use of the North Park Rec Center a few months ago, and the giant defecit-causing newsletters of my early reign of terror as Newsletter Editor are all major cases. The bottom line is: we could die next year if membership drops off, or something unforseen happens. **SDACE desperetly needs you to do your part and renew your membership, buy disks of the month, and support our newsletter advertisers.** As lame-duck newsletter editor, I'm begging you to renew!

Well, I'm belaboring the point, I'm afraid, and I apologize. But look at it from the point of view of the club officers, myself included. It'd sure be nice if the club weren't taken for granted like it is. Oh well, why complain about it...

A note on modems. The SDACE ST BBS is running off a Mitac 2400, loaned by Mark Lawless of Computers Plus. A collection will be taken up among the ST users for the modem at the meeting. Now the "big three" ST BBSs, ST-SDACE, ST Midi Connection and Computer Boulevard are all 2400 baud. Does that tell you something? Maybe it's time for you to graduate to a better modem. The local ST dealerships have good quality 2400 baud modems for under $200 now, so drop by and have a look. You'll be glad you did. I've been running 2400 for nearly a year now, and it's been the best move I ever made.

Please see EDITOR, page 4.

Important Information

From the Prez...

SDACE elections coming up in December, the 3rd of the month. The combined meetings of both groups, 8-bit and ST, will meet at the Adult Center of the North Park Recreational Center. The Adult Center is on the Northwest corner of the Park. Meeting time will be at 6:30 pm.

The first part of the meeting will be devoted to presentation of the slate of proposed officers, nominations from the floor, and voting.

The following are the proposed slated officers from the nominating committee:

President:	Mark Lawless
8-bit VP:	Ron Miller
ST VP:	-------
Treasurer:	Tom Andert
Secretary:	David Delgadillo

As you can see, the ST Veep slot is open, and we will be taking nominations for all this and the other elected positions from the floor. Let me encourage all of you who wish to be involved in this capacity to do so. I believe that the upcoming year will prove to be very interesting for both Atari and SDACE. There will be many challenges and much satisfaction.

The second part of the meeting will be devoted to the reason why we exist--the Atari computers. Bring your 8-bit, your ST's and Mega's, even your 2600 if you have one. Bring software and hardware. Let's show each other what these machiens are able to do. It will be a time for showing off.

Since I've touched on the subject of software, I would like to encourage all of you to go out and either buy yourself a Christmas gift or leave messages to your family for a gift. There is no better way to learn about and to support Atari computers. Much in the way of new software out there: WordPerfect, Spectrum 512, new desktop publishing proams, IBM software (for PC:Ditto), and Macintosh software (for the Magic Sac). Get out there and enjoy yourself.

The last thing I would like to leave you with are my wished to all of you for both a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Take care of yourself during the holidays, and let's all look forward to a fresh future.

- David Delgadillo

Editor's Commentary

I'd just like to add a few things to what Dave has said. First of all, I really want everyone to try their best and make the December meeting. Voting is important, your one chance to put your two cents in. If you don't care enough about SDACE to take one evening off and come down to North Park with us, then you probably aren't getting enough out of the club for you to bother with it at all. Please show up.

The past year has been, for me, an interesting and fulfilling one. I have not regretted my rather snap decision back in December of '86 to be the newsletter editor, nor am I happy to see the job go to someone else. I haven't been perfect as your newsletter editor, but I've always tried to meet my deadlines, and it's been a good experience for me. Time simply won't allow me to continue, unfortunately, so I'm passing the torch to Tom Bryant next month.

I've been in SDACE since '82, when I got my Atari 400 (for $250!) system. I've gotten a lot out of SDACE over the years, programming help, public domain software, friends, etc. By being the editor for a year I've taken pride in giving something back to the club, which is really here for everyone, not just one group.

If you're a new member of SDACE, I encourage you to keep going to the meetings, and make SDACE work as much for you as possible. Help out where you can, be an active member, work a booth at the San Diego Computer Society's computer show each year. When you're comfortable with the club, volunteer for an elected post. Being an SDACE officer is a good experience, and you'll feel like you're putting some back in to the club. If you're thinking about breaking the bonds of apathy which seem to hold everyone in the club and volunteering for a position, please stand up and be heard; don't just say, "Well, someone's already running, I won't bother." We need ***you*** at SDACE.

S.D.A.C.E. Classifieds

For Sale: Quality 1200 Baud modem
8-bit and ST cables, $60
Call Rick, 284-2365

800XL 256K, 1050, 48K 800,
assorted 8-bit software,
ST software: Strip Poker, Thunder,
VIP, Ultima II, Gato, Mindshadow,
Sundog, Music Studio, Paintworx,
Why wait? and dBman.
Call Guy Davis, 462-9704

Atari CX85 Numeric Keypad (8-bit),
40 Track DS drive, 80 Track DS drive,
Rick Dehaven 284-2365

Hey, you! Use the SDACE Classifieds! You think we put them here for our health?

LISTING OF SAN DIEGO AREA ATARI BBSs
Area code 619, 300/1200 BAUD, 24 hours a day
unless otherwise noted

Code	Name	Computer	Baud	Number
3	Fred's Place	8-bit	2400	560-8173
3	Polaris	8-bit	3/12	566-6210
3	The Highlands	8-bit	3/12	298-8475
	The Atari Fortress	8-bit	3/12	426-4253
3	8-bit SDACE	8-bit	3/12	566-3430
1	Sherwood Forest	8-bit/ST	3/12	276-5603
4	ST-SDACE	ST	2400	284-3821
4	ST MIDI Connection	ST	2400	452-7535
5 !	Computer Blvd.	ST	2400	589-0565
5	Computer Plus BBS	ST	2400	691-7862
4 *	Computer Outlet	ST	2400	282-6815

1 = TCxe, 2 = Forem, 3 = BBS Express
4 = Michtron ST, 5 = Forem ST

(*=Limited hours, !=Magic Sac support)

Help keep this list updated: contact the editor if you know of any corrections. *Thanks!*

Easel/ST

Reprinted from Current Notes
November 1987

Computer Fenestrations has just released a nifty new utility. It's called *EASEL.ST*, and it lets you install any Degas (Degah) or Neochrome picture as the background of your desktop. To use the program simply place it in an auto folder along with a copy of your favorite art work in the root directory. The picture will have to be renamed "EASE1ST" so that the program knows which picture to load. That's it. Now, whenever you boot the disk the picture will be there on your desk, but everything else will be the same. Run a program from a window, then return to the desktop, and your picture will still be there.

Right about now you're probably thinking to yourself that this is nice, but hardly practical. Well, actually there are quite a few ideas to put this program to work for you. How about drawing up your users' group logo, then at the next meeting instead of staring at a dell green screen between demonstrations you can promote your next meeting time. Another idea could be to make a picture that describes what's on a particular disk along with any special instructions. By doing this even someone who may not be terribly experienced with the ST could get started by simply booting up the computer and reading the text on the desktop.

I've tested *EASEL.ST* with quite a few popular ST programs and have found none to date that have problems with this program. It shold be noted that programs like Easy Draw and VIP Professional have the desktop in the background of the program so whatever picture was installed with still be there when you execute programs like these. This can lead to innovative uses of *EASEL.ST* that are application specific.

You can probably tell that I like the prgram and at least one reason for this is that it falls into a rare class of progrma that do what they're supposed to do. It's not copy protected, and is very reasonably priced. At only $19, this program makes a fine addition to anyone's library.

- Kirk Osterman

COMWORD II

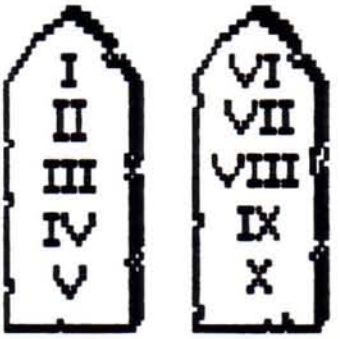
BIBLE Information management and retrieval database system.

Old and New Testaments in the King James version.
Greek and Hebrew dictionary
Strong Exhaustive concordance
Lightning fast word search, just define any word or words you wish to research, define where to look. A specific book, or New testament ,or the whole Bible, wait 30 seconds and all the verses are isplayed and can then be saved to an ascii file. Then take it to your favorite word processor!
STRONGS WORD SEARCH/MULTIPLE KEY WORD SEARCH/DICTIONARY REFERENCE (DISPLAY ANY GREEK OR HEBREW WORD DEFINITION)/ SCRIPTURE SELECTION/STRONGS WORD SEARCH/BACKWARDS SEARCHING/PRINTING
Save all aspects of window display configurations, search limits,etc,... . For your ease of use.

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Normally a $540 program. Your cost is $430, OR $350 to the first 3 responses to this ad!
Requires a minimum of 9.3 Megabytes of space on a Hard Disk Drive. Works on all ST's. COMWORD II is a copright of Word of God software inc.

CALL GARY HEINTZ AT 741-7467



USED SOFTWARE

DATAMANAGER BY TIMEWORKS. Database program, only $40.00
PHANTASIE BY S.S.I. . Fantasy Roleplaying game. $20.00
SPACE QUEST by SIERRA. adventure game . $20.00
POWER EDIT wordprocessing software by Power Systems. $7.50
GENIE Network Users manual & binder only $8.00
Call Gary at 741-7467

large companies like Microsoft and Ashton-Tate, to name only two.

Moving on from the vaporware to the real stuff, WordPerfect is out and is selling quite well, thank you. This one is really loaded with power. Now if you need the best then you can buy the best there is.

The BBS has moved in to the fast lane. A 2400 baud modem was purchased at the request of the users. Donations are requested to help defray the cost of the latest addition. Thanks go out to those who have already contributed. The old 1200 baud modem is for sale, only $60 and two cables. One for the ST and one for the 8-bit's 850 interface. If interested, call the BBS or me, voice (both numbers are on the second page of the newsletter).

And last but not lease, I want to tell you about the club elections at the next General Meeting. It will be held on the first Thursday (the third!!!) of December at 2719 Howard Street. That is the same place as the Magic Sac/Beginners/CAD 3D SIGS meeting. Voting for next year's officers will be at this meeting. If you want to have a say in where your club is going in 1988 then I suggest that you make it there. We are in need of a new ST-VP to take over my shoes, as I will not be running for the office again. Users interested in having more fun than they are now having should apply!

[Editor's note: I'd like to say goodbye to Rick DeHaven, ST-VP for the past year and past President and Vice-President of SDACE. I know we'll all miss him, but it'll be nice to have him around on the BBS--yes, he is continuing as Sysop of the club's board--and we're sure he'll keep in touch with the club.

Being 'in charge' of anything is difficult, and Rick's done a great job (even if he's always the last officer to turn in his newsletter article!). We all with you the best at Computer Outlet and in your future life, Rick, and hope to see you at the next few hundred meetings.]

Remember, the December General Meeting is on December 3rd! Go and vote for your club's officers!

2719 Howard Street!

To My Darling Husband

By W.J.Parsons
Reprinted from RUGAC

I am sending you this letter in a bogus software company envelope so that you will be sure to read it. Please forgive the deceoption, but I thought you should know what has been going on at home since your ST computer entered our lives two years ago.

The children are doing well. Tommy is now seven and is a bright handsome boy. He has developed quite an interest in arts.. He drew a family portrait for a school project. The chair and tha back of your head were very realistic. You would be very proud of him.

Little Jennifer turned three in September. She looks a lot like you did at that age. She is an attractive child, and quite smart. She still remembers that you spent the whole afternoon with us on her birthday. What a grand day for Jen, despite the face that it was stormy and the elctricity was out.

I am also doing well. I went blonde about a year ago and was delighted to discover that they do have more fun.

Lars, I mean Mr. Swenson, the department head, has taken in an interest in my career, and has become a good friend to us all. I have discovered that household chores are much easier since I realized that you didn't mind being vacuumed, but that feather dusting makes you sneeze.

The house is in good shape. I had the living room painted last spring. I'm not sure you noticed it. I made sure the painters dropped holes in the drop cloth so you wouldn't be disturbed.

Well, my dear, I must be going. Uncle Lars, I mean Mr. Swenson, is taking us all on a ski trip and there is packing to do. I have hired a housekeeper to take care of things while we are away. She'll keep things in order, fill your coffee cup, and bring your meals to your computer room, just the way you like it. I hope you and the ST have a lovely time while we are gone. Tommy, Jen and I will think of you often. Try to remember us while your disks are booting.

Love,
Mary